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TORRINGTON
RURAL DISTRICT
1970

REPORTS
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
AND
Chief Public Health Inspector

For the Year ending
31st December, 1970.

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TORRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary
Circumstances of the Torrington Rural District for 1970

By

E. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health,

and

F. G. GANE, F.F.S., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :—

Dr. E. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor :—

F. G. GANE, F.F.S., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector and Deputy Surveyor :—

C. A. KERSWILL, Cert. S.I.E.J.B.

Additional Public Health Inspector and Assistant Surveyor :—

B. J. Dean, M.A.P.H.I.

Council Chambers,
South Street,
Torrington.
Telephone Torrington 2250.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
TORRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the health and sanitary
conditions of the area for 1970.

--
I am,

Yours faithfully,

E. WILLIAMS.

Torrington Rural District

1970

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	79,803
Population (Registrar General's mid-year estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	7,240
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	2,909
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£124,185
Sum realised by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£502

VITAL STATISTICS

Area Comparability Factors	...	Births 1.19	Deaths 0.90
Live Births	...	...	95
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	13.1
Rate per 1,000 population adjusted	...	...	15.6
Illegitimate Live births percent of total Live Births	...	...	7%
Still Births	...	...	3
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	...	...	31
Total Live and Still Births	...	...	98
Infant Deaths (under 1 year)	...	...	1
Infant Mortality Rates:-			
Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 Total Live Births	...	...	11
Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	...	...	Nil
Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	...	...	143
Neo Natal Mortality Rate (death under 4 weeks per 1,000 Total Live Births)	...	...	11
Early Neo Natal Mortality Rate (death under 1 week per 1,000 Total Live Births)	...	...	11
Peri Natal Mortality Rate (Still Births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births)	...	...	41
Maternal Mortality (including Abortion)	...	...	Nil
Number of Deaths	...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	...	...	Nil
Deaths	...	...	108
Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	14.9
Death Rate per 1,000 population adjusted	...	...	13.4

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS

Cause of Death					Sex	Total All Ages
B18	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	...	...	...	M	1
					F	—
B19(3)	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	...	...	M	1
					F	2
B19(4)	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	...	...	...	M	3
					F	1
B19(6)	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	...	...	...	M	6
					F	1
B19(7)	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	...	...	M	—
					F	3
B19(8)	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	...	...	...	F	1
B19(11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms	...	...	...	M	3
					F	5
B26	Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	...	...	...	M	—
					F	1
B27	Hypertensive Disease	...	...	...	M	1
					F	2
B28	Ischaemic Heart Disease	...	...	...	M	15
					F	12
B29	Other Forms of Heart Disease	...	...	...	M	3
					F	1
B30	Cerebrovascular Disease	...	...	...	M	4
					F	8
B46(6)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...	...	...	M	6
					F	4
B31	Influenza	...	...	...	M	1
					F	—
B32	Pneumonia	...	...	...	M	1
					F	3
B33(1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	...	...	...	M	1
					F	3
B33(2)	Asthma	...	...	...	M	1
					F	—
B35	Appendicitis	...	...	...	M	—
					F	1
B46(8)	Other Diseases of Digestive System	...	...	...	M	—
					F	1
B46(11)	Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	...	...	...	M	1
					F	2
B42	Congenital Anomalies	...	...	...	M	—
					F	1
B45	Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	...	...	...	M	1
					F	2
BE47	Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	M	1
					F	1
BE48	All Other Accidents	...	...	...	M	—
					F	1
BE49	Suicide and Self-inflicted Injuries	...	...	...	M	2
					F	—
TOTAL ALL CAUSES					M	52
					F	50

LIFE DURING 1970 IN THE RURAL DISTRICT.

[illegible]

POPULATION BIRTHS and DEATHS for the
RURAL DISTRICT since 1956.

YEAR	POPULATION	LIVE BIRTHS	DEATHS
1956	7392	119	136
1957	7150	105	79
1958	7160	45	75
1959	7130	42	59
1960	7130	28	48
1961	7190	52	46
1962	7190	97	91
1963	7200	86	96
1964	7280	105	86
1965	7280	104	89
1966	7300	111	100
1967	7300	90	82
1968	7320	79	85
1969	7280	108	86
1970	7240	95	108

BIRTHS

During the year there were 95 live births as compared with 119 in 1969.

Live Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	50	38	88
Illegitimate	6	1	7
Still Births			
Legitimate	1	—	1
Illegitimate	2	—	2

DEATHS

The total number of deaths within the Rural District during the year was 108 as compared with 86 in 1969. There was one infant death under the age of 1 year.

Male—52 Female—56 Total—108

There were no deaths of women in childbirth during the year.

CANCER DEATHS

There were 26 deaths from cancer during the year.

		Males	Females
Bowel	...	3	1
Lung	...	6	1
Breast	...	—	3
Stomach	...	1	2
Uterus	..	—	1
Others	...	3	5

Infectious Diseases

A total of 46 infectious diseases were notified :-

Infectious Hepatitis	3
Scarlet Fever	5
Measles	38

No lung tuberculosis cases were notified during the year, and no other non-pulmonary cases were reported.

Food Poisoning

No instances of food poisoning were reported.

National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47

No compulsory removal of elderly persons from their homes under the above Act occurred during the year.

Brucella Abortus in Milk

One positive milk sample for Brucella Abortus was reported during the year.

No cases of undulant fever in humans were reported.

Annual Report of Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector

DETAILS OF VISITS

Number of houses inspected	....	....	....	....	96
Number of houses re-inspected	....	....	....	....	30
Keeping of Animals	....	....	....	....	8
Offensive accumulations	....	....	....	....	7
Dirty Houses	....	....	....	....	2
Infectious disease investigation	....	....	....	....	—
Disinfections	....	....	....	....	—
Factories & Workshops	....	....	....	....	18
Bakehouses	....	....	....	....	3
Other Food Premises	....	....	....	....	54
Food Inspections (except meat)	....	....	....	....	17
Water Samples	....	....	....	....	35
Obstructed or defective drains	....	....	....	....	151
Drains inspected or tested	....	....	....	....	159
Council Houses	....	....	....	....	371
Swill boiling plants	....	....	....	....	1
Boarding Kennels	....	....	....	....	35
Offices as shown on O.S.R. 14	....	....	....	....	58
Plans investigated	....	....	....	....	280
Building inspections	....	....	....	....	1,079
Improvement Grant applications	....	....	....	....	178
Re-visits for improvement grants	....	....	....	....	321
Sewage works visited	....	....	....	....	345
Petroleum inspections	....	....	....	....	29
New Sewerage Schemes	....	....	....	....	364
Refuse Tips	....	....	....	....	134
Council Building Sites	....	....	....	....	364
Caravan Sites etc.	....	....	....	....	56
Food delivery vans etc.	....	....	....	....	7
Advertisement control	....	....	....	....	8
Dangerous structures	....	....	....	....	15
Abandoned vehicles, bulky refuse etc.	....	....	....	....	28
Surveys	....	....	....	....	48
Meat Inspection	....	....	....	....	96

FACTORIES ACT, 1961. Part I of the Act.

1—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .. Non-Power	1	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority Power	24	13	4	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) Building sites etc.	35	40	4	—
TOTAL	60	54	8	NIL

2—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H. M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H. M. Inspector (6)	
...

HOUSING

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :

(1)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects	....	....	....	....	92
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	....				—
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	....	....	....		92

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	35
--	------	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

Nil

New Housing Accommodation Provided

Number of new houses erected by local authority	13
Shebbear 4 High Bickington 4 Dolton 3 Winkleigh 2	
Number of new houses erected by private enterprise	23

Council Housing Programme

During the year 10 two bedroomed bungalows were completed and three bungalows on the factory site at Dolton.

The Council now owns 265 houses and bungalows, and 40 garages.

Applications were received for :-

22 Improvement Grants.

26 Standard Grants.

8 Discretionary Improvement grants were completed during the year at a cost of £6,438 bringing the total up to 201. In addition 18 standard grants were completed at a cost of £3,298 bringing the total up to 380.

The total expenditure to the end of the year was :—

Discretionary grants	....	....	£72,591
Standard grants	....	....	£56,758
			<hr/>
			£129,349
			<hr/>

Common Lodging Houses

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the district.

Caravans

There are 3 licensed sites in the district, one at Winkleigh also being licensed for residential use. In addition there are a few individually sited vans that have had planning permission and been licensed for temporary periods. The sites are frequently inspected and generally run in a satisfactory manner. There are also three exempted sites operated by the Caravan Club and the Camping Club, but these are little frequented.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The Council operates a fortnightly refuse collection covering most of the area except for a few isolated farms and cottages. The village of Winkleigh is served weekly. The vehicle used is a Shelvoke & Drewry fore and aft tipper which is manned by two collector-drivers. The refuse is disposed of on two tips at the moment at Winkleigh and Roborough. The vehicle also collects the refuse from litter bins in the villages and on road-side lay-bys.

A number of special journeys were made to various sites for the removal of bulky refuse found deposited by the road sides.

An investigation was made into the possibility of operating a sack system of collection but in view of the estimated cost and associated problems, it was decided not to proceed with the scheme at the present time.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The villages of Winkleigh, Shebbear, Sheepwash, Taddiport, St. Giles-in-the-Wood, Kingscott, Roborough, Petrockstowe, Merton, Yarnscombe, Stibb Cross, Little Torrington, Ashreigney, Hollacombe, Weare Giffard and Dolton are now equipped with modern sewerage and sewage disposal systems. Other villages requiring schemes to complete the Council's programme are High Bickington, Beaford, Langtree, Riddlecombe and Frithelstock. Schemes for High Bickington and Beaford are being prepared.

These villages have primitive sewage systems which are very unsatisfactory and give rise to frequent nuisances. Nuisance is also occasionally caused by individual unsatisfactory septic tank effluent disposal and crude discharges. Progress is still much too slow and a greater priority ought to be given to such vital matters.

WATER SUPPLIES

The area is very well served by the North Devon Water Board via a network of mains and all villages and hamlets are supplied. Only remote dwellings now rely on shallow wells for a supply. These often give rise to problems in prolonged dry spells resulting in water having to be carried in.

The following new connections were made during the year :

64 Domestic	10 Trade
The total number of premises now connected to the mains is :	
1,963 Domestic	368 Trade

There are no standpipes in the district.

The following is a list of the parishes showing the number of houses connected and an estimate of the population served :—

				<i>No. of houses</i>	<i>No. of population served</i>
Alverdiscott	....	....	....	55	170
Ashreigney	....	....	....	106	321
Beaford	....	....	....	105	315
Buckland Filleigh	....	....	....	22	67
Dolton	.....	.....	.....	165	500
Dowland	....	....	....	21	65
Frithelstock	....	....	....	82	248
High Bickington	....	....	....	103	315
Huish	....	....	....	14	42
Huntshaw	....	....	....	32	96
Langtree	....	....	....	123	374
Little Torrington	....	....	....	80	243
Merton	....	....	....	96	292
Peters Marland	....	....	....	57	171
Petrockstowe	....	....	....	83	251
Roborough	....	....	....	43	131
St. Giles	....	....	....	139	422
Shebbear	....	....	....	163	495
Sheepwash	....	....	....	82	247
Weare Giffard	....	....	....	80	243
Winkleigh	....	....	....	296	891
Yarnscombe	....	....	....	51	155

The water is treated at the source to counteract plumbosolvency. Samples of the water are frequently taken by the Board's officials for chemical and bacteriological examination and the results are notified to the Department.

17 Samples of water were taken from private supplies of which 2 were found to be completely satisfactory. In the case of unsatisfactory supply where a mains supply was available, connection was made; but in many cases of isolated premises the owner/occupier was advised to fit filtration plant or to boil all water before drinking.

A total of 35 visits were made by the Department in connection with water sampling.

RODENT CONTROL

With the retirement of the full-time rodent operator in September last year, rodent control is now carried out under Contract with Messrs. Rentokil.

The following work was carried out in the Rural District during the year :—

No. of Local Authority Premises treated ....	....	5
No. of Visits to same ....	....	18
No. of Private Premises treated ....	....	23
No. of Visits to same ....	....	138
No. of Business Premises and Farms treated ....	....	4
No. of Visits to same ....	....	35
No. of Survey calls made ....	....	726

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There is one gut scraping establishment in the district, associated with the Winkleigh Abattoir, and this is satisfactorily operated.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Slaughtering

There are two licensed slaughter houses in the district including an abattoir at Winkleigh. All animals killed were inspected. A full time resident meat inspector was in constant attendance.

TABLE A

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part
Figures in brackets are for 1969

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep Lambs and Goats	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	141 (768)	86 (992)	18 (162)	3688 (49959)	616 (8081)	— (—)
Number inspected	141 (768)	86 (992)	18 (162)	3688 (49959)	616 (8081)	— (—)
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases con- demned....	1 (2)	3 (20)	4 (34)	46 (571)	3 (26)	— (—)
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	36 (146)	24 (291)	3 (18)	1061 (9856)	38 (548)	— (—)
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tub- erculosis and Cysticerci	26.24 (19)	31.40 (29.30)	38.89 (11.10)	30.02 (19.70)	6.66 (6.80)	— (—)
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcases condemned	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	4 (124)	— (—)
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	0.65 (1.70)	— (—)
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	— (5)	— (—)	— (—)	— (38)	— (—)	— (—)
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigera- tion	— (5)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE B

Summary of Meat Condemnations with cause and weight.

Food Condemned	Weight in lbs.
Due to Tuberculosis :	
Parts of 4 Pigs	46 lbs.
Due to Diseases other than Tuberculosis :	
Carcases and Organs of 1 Cattle	222
Carcases and Organs of 3 Cows ...	1296
Carcases and Organs of 4 Calves	195
Carcases and Organs of 46 Sheep	1892
Carcases and Organs of 3 Pigs	147
Parts of 41 Cattle	498
Parts of 24 Cows	777
Parts of 3 Calves	144
Parts of 1,060 Sheep	2360
Parts of 38 Pigs	159
	<hr/> 7,690lbs. <hr/>

Condemned meat was disposed of through trade channels for sterilisation.

TABLE C

Condemned Foods.

1 Tin of Meat
 1,081 Packets of frozen confection (ice creams, lollies etc.)
 63 lbs of other frozen foods.

THE FOOD HYGIENE (General) REGULATIONS 1960

The following is a list of food premises in the district :—

Type of Premises	No.	No. which comply with Regulation 16	No. to which Regulation 19 applies	No. which comply with Regulation 19
Grocery and General Stores	26	26	26	26
Bakers	3	3	3	3
Butchers	4	4	4	4
Public Houses & Hotels	16	16	16	16
Cafes	6	5	6	6

21 Premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the sale of ice-cream. No ice-cream is manufactured in the district. 54 visits to food premises were made during the year.

LIQUID EGG (Pasteurisation) REGULATIONS, 1963.

There are no plants in the district.

POULTRY INSPECTIONS

There are no poultry processing premises within the District.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT

One swill boiling plant is operating in the district and has been licensed. 2 visits were made.

PETROLEUM LICENCES

37 petroleum storage licences were issued during the year.

SLAUGHTERING LICENCES

18 licences were issued during the year to slaughtermen.

BOARDING KENNELS

3 premises are registered under the Act and 6 visits were made to them during the year. Conditions were found to be satisfactory.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT

The following inspections have been carried out under the 1963 Act :-

Type of Premises	Registered in 1967	Total Registered	General Inspection
Offices	—	5	3
Retail Shops	1	15	14
Wholesale Shops & Warehouses	—	1	—
Catering Establishments	—	1	1
Totals	1	22	18

Number of visits of all kinds to registered premises - 58.

No certificates of exemption were issued during the year.

No accidents were reported during 1970.

Persons Employed in Registered Premises

Offices	14
Retail Shops	27
Wholesalers/Warehouses	2
Catering Establishments	5
Canteens	—
Fuel Storage Depots	—
Total	48
Total Males	20
Total Females	28

PLANS

178 plans were submitted during the year, 136 were approved, 36 refused, 6 withdrawn. There were also 83 plans submitted in addition for Building Regulation approval only.

All plans were considered by the Council's Planning Committee after submission to the Divisional Planning Committee of the Devon County Council.

I attended most of the monthly meetings of the Divisional Planning Committee.

STAFF

I would like to pay tribute to the work of my deputy, Mr. Kerswill during the year and also to Mr. Dean.

I would also like to thank your Clerk, Mr. B. W. Leatt, and your Medical Officer, Dr. E. Williams, for their assistance and co-operation at all times.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

F. G. GANE.

